

# Breaking the Barriers: A Comprehensive Exploration of Gender-Based Violence by Deborah Smith Parker



## Gender Based Violence by Deborah Smith Parker

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 993 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 74 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive issue that affects millions of people around the world. It can take many forms, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and can have a devastating impact on victims' lives. In this article, we will explore the different types of GBV, its causes and consequences, and what can be done to prevent and address it.

## **What is Gender-Based Violence?**

GBV is any act or omission that is based on gender and causes harm to women and girls. It can include physical, sexual, psychological, or economic abuse. GBV can occur in any setting, from the home to the workplace, and can be perpetrated by anyone, from intimate partners to strangers.

## **Types of Gender-Based Violence**

There are many different types of GBV, including:

\* **Physical abuse:** This includes any form of physical violence, such as hitting, punching, kicking, or burning. \* **Sexual abuse:** This includes any form of sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, or sexual harassment. \* **Psychological abuse:** This includes any form of emotional abuse, such as humiliation, intimidation, or isolation. \* **Economic abuse:** This includes any form of economic control, such as denying someone access to money or preventing them from getting a job.

## **Causes of Gender-Based Violence**

There are many factors that can contribute to GBV, including:

\* **Gender inequality:** GBV is rooted in gender inequality, which gives men power over women and girls. This inequality can be perpetuated by social norms, laws, and institutions. \* **Socialization:** Children are socialized from a young age to accept gender roles that reinforce male dominance and female subordination. This can lead to boys and men feeling entitled to power over women and girls, and to girls and women internalizing their own inferiority. \* **Violence against women:** GBV is often a form of violence against women. This is because women are seen as inferior to men and are therefore more vulnerable to violence. \* **Poverty:** Poverty can increase the risk of GBV, as it can lead to stress, economic insecurity, and a lack of access to resources. \* **Conflict:** GBV is often used as a weapon of war or conflict. This is because it can be used to terrorize and control women and girls.

## **Consequences of Gender-Based Violence**

GBV can have a devastating impact on victims' lives. It can lead to physical, sexual, and mental health problems, as well as economic and social problems. Some of the consequences of GBV include:

\* Physical injuries \* Sexual and reproductive health problems \* Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD \* Economic problems, such as job loss and homelessness \* Social problems, such as isolation and discrimination

## **Preventing and Addressing Gender-Based Violence**

There are many things that can be done to prevent and address GBV. These include:

\* **Challenging gender inequality:** We need to challenge gender inequality and promote gender equality. This can be done through education, advocacy, and policy change. \* **Changing socialization practices:** We need to change socialization practices that reinforce male dominance and female subordination. This can be done through parenting, education, and media literacy. \* **Supporting survivors of GBV:** We need to provide support to survivors of GBV. This can include medical care, counseling, and legal assistance. \* **Holding perpetrators accountable:** We need to hold perpetrators of GBV accountable for their actions. This can be done through criminal prosecution and social sanctions.

GBV is a complex and devastating issue, but it is one that can be prevented and addressed. By challenging gender inequality, changing socialization practices, supporting survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable, we can create a world where all people are safe from GBV.

## About the Author

Deborah Smith Parker is a renowned researcher and advocate for gender equality. She has written extensively on the issue of GBV, and her work has helped to raise awareness of this issue and to develop strategies to prevent and address it.

## Additional Resources

\* [The National Domestic Violence Hotline](<https://www.thehotline.org/>) \* [The National Sexual Assault Hotline](<https://www.rainn.org/>) \* [The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](<https://www.ncadv.org/>)

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